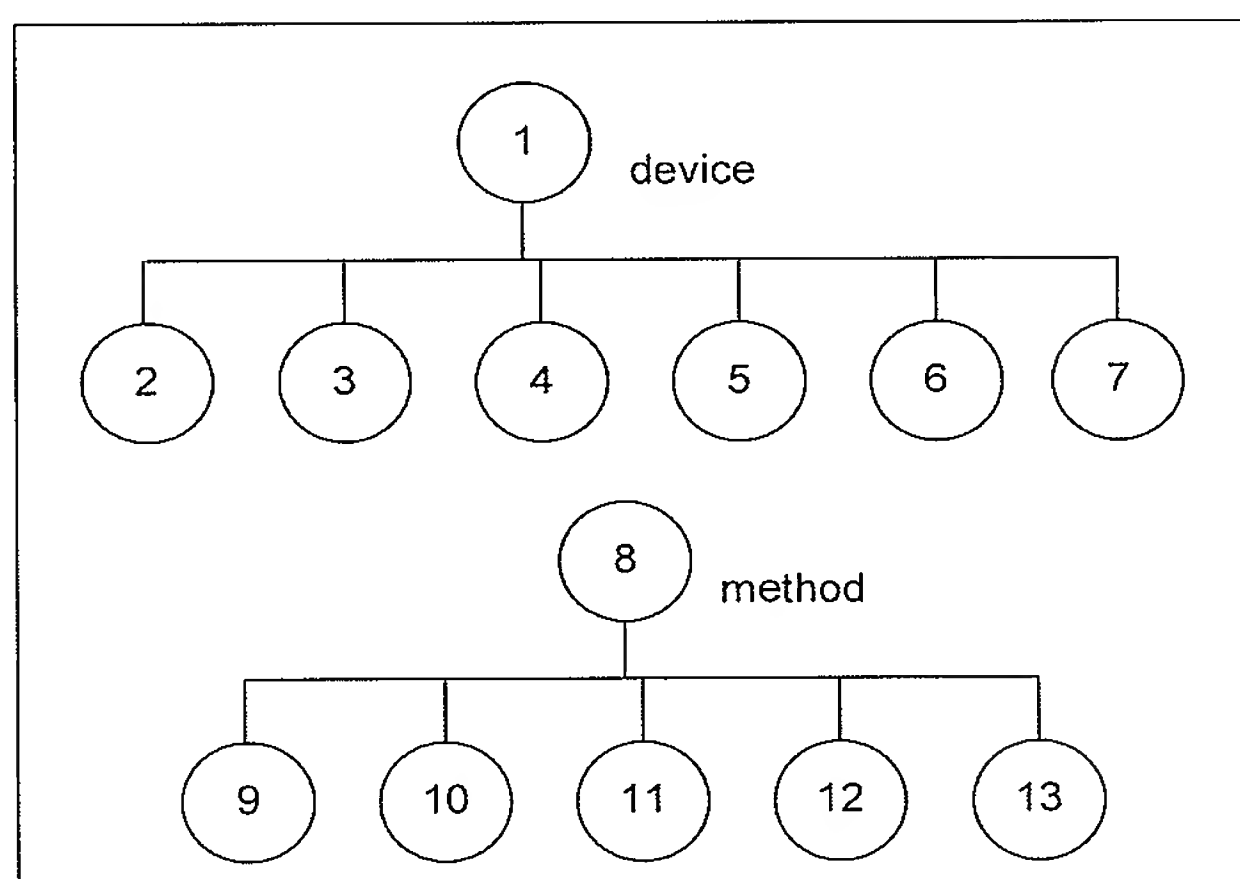


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action mailed January 27, 2009, original Claims 1-13 were rejected as being unpatentable over the prior art of record. Specifically Independent claims 1 and 8 and dependent claims 2-7, 9, 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as describing the invention in terms that failed to distinguish the invention over the technology described in the prior art Ramaswamy reference (International Patent Publication No. WO 01/95569). Remaining dependent claims 11 and 12 were rejected as being obvious variations of the technology taught by the Ramaswamy reference taken with the publication to Kim et al.

In this response independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to better express the applicant's invention. Specifically, independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to more clearly state the video bus is distinct from a conventional data bus. The importance of this distinction is discussed hereinafter. Housekeeping amendments have also been made to dependent claims 9-13. No new claims have been added. The diagram below illustrates the relationships among the 13 claims.



In general, although the Ramaswamy reference describes a Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM) in its Figure 2, Ramaswamy fails to teach or suggest a DSLAM having “a video bus” that is distinct from a conventional data bus and dedicated for multicasting video service streams as described in paragraph [0029] of this application. The Office action has apparently interpreted the conventional data bus in Ramaswamy to be the same as the video bus in the claims. With this understanding in mind, an appropriate amendment has been made to each of the independent claims 1 and 8 in order to more clearly distinguish between applicant's invention and the conventional data bus in Ramaswamy.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

For reasons detailed below, reconsideration of the application is solicited and the rejections of claims 1-10 and 13 are respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Independent claim 1 of the present application recites a bandwidth expanded Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM) for multicasting video service. Independent claim 8 recites a transmission method corresponding to the DSLAM in claim 1. Independent claims 1 and 8 as amended herein are reproduced below in side-by-side relationship.

<p>1. A bandwidth expanded Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM) for multicasting video service, comprising:</p> <p>a main control board, subscriber interface boards and a data bus which is connected between the main control board and each of the subscriber interface boards;</p> <p><i>wherein the DSLAM further comprises a video bus which is connected between the main control board and each of the subscriber interface boards, and wherein the video bus is configured to transmit a video service stream.</i></p>	<p>8. A transmission method for bandwidth expanded DSLAM comprising,</p> <p><i>connecting a main control board and each of subscriber interface boards in the DSLAM with a video bus, wherein the video bus is configured to transmit a video service stream, and</i></p> <p>detecting whether a service from a network interface is the video service stream by the main control board; if it is, transmitting to each subscriber interface board through the video bus in the DSLAM, otherwise transmitting it through a data bus.</p>
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Ramaswamy discloses “[s]ending multiple copies of the same information to multiple destinations can become demanding on the network and does not constitute an efficient use of resources.” Ramaswamy further states that “a method that provides for **multicast delivery of information in a DSL network includes: creating transmission paths between a single source port and multiple destination ports in a DSL network; receiving** information at the source port; *determining* which of the destination ports is to receive the information; and *distributing* the information from the source port to selective ones of the destination ports based on the prior referencing step.” (See pg. 2, lines 5-10 and lines 15-20) In other words, Ramaswamy aims at solving the multicast problem by using

P2MP PVC. The P2MP PVC is a logic forwarding path and still uses the same physical bus as the P2P PVC.

Furthermore, as illustrated in its Figure 2, Ramaswamy at best aims at “implementing multicast delivery service in a DSL network to make efficient use of the network” (See pg. 2, lines 10-13) by using a P2MP protocol - - i.e., a single source port to multiple destination ports in a DSL network. In the P2MP protocol, “transmission paths between a single source port and multiple destination ports in a DSL network” are created, and the transmission paths are logic paths that are still on the same physical bus instead of a video bus of claim 1. In other words, Ramaswamy relates to duplicating a cell at the source VPI/VCI to *each destination VPI/VCI channels* (see page 7, line 10), but does not care which physical bus is used.

In contrast to the teachings in Ramaswamy, independent claims 1 and 8 relate to using a *video bus configured to transmit a video service stream*. Ramaswamy does not disclose or render obvious the feature in amended claim 1 of the DSLAM comprising “*a video bus which is connected between the main control board and each of the subscriber interface boards, and wherein the video*” or the feature in amended independent claim 8 of a bus “*configured to transmit a video service stream*” and connected to “*a main control board and each of subscriber interface boards in the DSLAM*” such that “*the video bus is configured to transmit a video service stream.*”

As amended, independent claims 1 and 8 now more clearly recite the video bus feature and, therefore, are distinguishable from the technology described by Ramaswamy. Dependent claims 2-7 and claims 9, 10 and 13 are patentable over Ramaswamy for at least the same reasons as expressed above with respect independent claims 1 and 8.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Dependent claims 11 and 12 are rejected as obvious variations of the Ramaswamy reference in view of the teachings in Kim et al. Each of claims 11 and 12 depends from independent claim 8 and, therefore, incorporates all of its limitations. As such claims 11 and 12 include the limitations referenced above regarding the video bus.

According to the Office action with reference to claim 11, Kim et al. discloses “the duplicating of the received video stream from the video bus by the data processing module into the subscriber interface board, and outputting to a multicasting subscriber interface.” Although

the applicant disagrees with this characterization of the teachings in Kim et al, Ramaswamy does not employ a vide bus as claimed and, therefore, modifying Ramaswamy to include the alleged features of Kim et al. is without foundation in any teachings of the prior art of record.

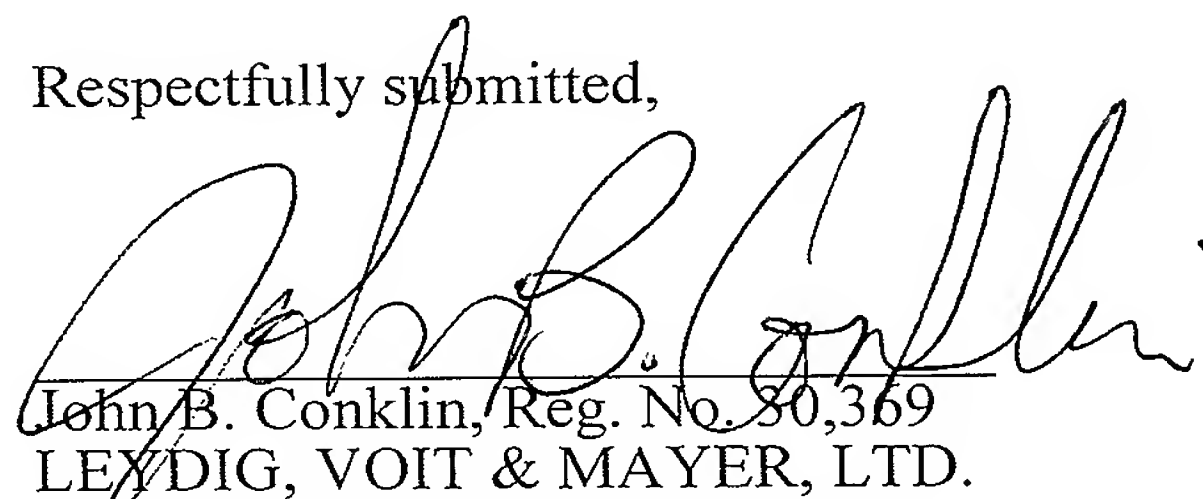
As for claim 12, the Office action states Kim et al. teaches "detecting whether the received service stream from the video bus is a video service stream by the data processing module in the subscriber interface board; if it is, duplicating the received service stream and outputting the muticasting subscriber interface, otherwise discarding it." The Office action summarizes that claim 12 is "essentially claiming a ring network," which is disclosed by Kim et al. Applicant also disagrees with this characterization of the teachings in Kim et al. Nevertheless, modifying Ramaswamy to include "essentially a ring network" does not meet all of the limitation of claims 8 and 12 for at least the same reasons stated above with respect to claim 8.

Therefore, claims 11 and 12 are patentable over any rational combination of the the teaching in the Ramaswamy reference and Kim et al. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-13 are solicited. The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent.

Respectfully submitted,



John B. Conklin, Reg. No. 30,369
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6731
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

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